



By the King.

A Proclamation for the Prices of Victuals
within the Verge of the Court.



Hereas Wee vnderstand by the Records of Our Counting-house, that Our most Noble Progenitors & Predecessors, Kings and Queenes of this Realm, haue alwaies had an especiall care to restraine the excessive Rates and Prices of Victuals, Horse-meate, and Lodging; And that notwithstanding the extraordinary care thereof, taken by Our most deare and Royall Father, King IAMES of blessed memory, yet there were within the Verge of the Court, alwayes some, who out of their greedy desire of unlawfull gain, would neuer bee kept within any bounds of equall and reasonable Prices, but, by the accessse of the Court, and the increase of the concourse of people thither, would take an occasion to enhaunce their Rates, and exact unconscionable extreame Prices, at their owne willes and pleasures:

Wee, taking the same into Our Princely consideration, and being desirous that all Our louing Subjects in generall, should in all places of their trauaile bee well vsed, and especially within the Verge of Our Court, where Our Nobility, Seruants & Traine, dayly attending vpon Our Person, are lodged & placed by Our Harbingers, & other Suitors haue dayly occasion to resort, haue giuen order to the Clerke of the Market of Our Household, within the Verge of Our Court, forthwith to cause a Rate and Valuation to bee set by indifferent Iurozs, of all Corne, Victuals, Lodgings, Horse-meate, and other necessities of that kinde, according to the reasonable and equall Rates and Prices of the Market, and to renewe such Rates and Valuations from time to time, as occasion shall require, by Oath and Presentments of Iurozs; And haue commanded, that Schedules of the Inquisitions and Presentments of the Iuries, to bee thereupon taken, shall, not onely be certified by Our sayd Clerke of the Market, or his Deputie, into Our Counting-house, to remaine there with the Officers of Our Household; But shall also be fixed, and set vpon the Gates of Our Court, and other places within the Verge, aswell within Liberties as

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without, whereby publique notice may bee taken of the same; Our Will and pleasure being, and we do by this Our Proclamation straitly charge & command, That no Baker, Brewer, Inholder, Butcher, or other Victualler, or any other person or persons, of what estate or degree soever hee or they be, doe in any wise demand, aske, or receive more for Corne, Victuals, Horsemeate, Lodging, or any other thing to bee specified in the sayd Schedule or Inquisition, then according to the Rates and Prices therein mentioned, vpon paine of imprisonment, and such further punishment, as by the Lawes of this Realme, or by Our Prerogative Royall, may bee inflicted vpon them, as oppressors of the Common-Wealth, and contemners of this Our Royall Commandement.

And moreover, wee doe straitly charge and command, That no manner of person or persons, now vsing, or which shall hereafter vse, to serue any Citie, Borough, Towne, or other place, in, or neere the place of Our residence or abode, or elsewhere within the Cerge of Our Court, either within Liberties or without, of, or with any kinde of Corne or Victuals, or other necessaries, either vpon the Market dayes, or at any other time, shall be any thing the more remisse, or slacke, for making of prouision for the same, then they or any of them heretofore haue been, nor shall vse any colour of craft, to deceiue the buyers of, or in the said prouisions, or to withdraw, conceale, hide, or lay aside their Corne, Victuals, Horsemeate, or other necessaries, to lessen or diminish the Market, whereby Our Traine, or attendants of Our Court, within any Citie, Borough, or Towne within the Cerge, or the Inhabitants of the same, or any other Our louing Subjects thereunto resorting, shall not be as well, and as plenteously furnished in euery respect, as the Markets were before, in defrauding of this Our Ordinance.

And furthermore, we straitly charge, and expressly command, aswell all Our Officers of Our Greencloth, and Our Clerke of the Market, and his Deputie or Deputies, as also all Mayors, Bayliffes, Sheriffes, Constables, and all other Our Officers and Ministers of all and euery the Cities, Boroughs, Townes, Hundreds, and other places within the Cerge of Our Court, aswel within Liberties as without, That they and euery of them from time to time, when, and as often as any complaint shall bee made vnto them by any partie or parties, iustly grieved or wronged, contrary to the tenour of this Our Proclamation, within their authorities respectiue, forthwith to endeauour themselves to see speedy reformation thereof and due punishment of the person or persons that shall offend therein, according to the seuerest Justice of Our Lawes in that behalfe.

Given at Our Court at White-Hall, the fourteenth day of May, in the first yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
M.DC.XXV.